

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF DUPONT FOREST IN WESTERN N.C.
35 Acre Donation By DuPont Provides Easier Public Access To Area's Most Popular Features

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that DuPont has donated a parcel of land that is key to the state's conservation efforts and will provide easier access to popular areas in the DuPont State Forest. The 35 acres donated are in the center of state forest on the Transylvania-Henderson County line and will enable visitors to travel between Lake Julia and the Little River sections of the forest without having to make a lengthy detour on Reasonover Road.

"This donation is a true gift for hikers," Easley said. "Now they can just walk on over to the beautiful falls instead of going several miles out of the way."

DuPont State Forest is located between the towns of Brevard and Hendersonville. The more than 10,400-acre forest includes four spectacular waterfalls. The state forest is open year round for hiking, biking, education and site-seeing. More than 120,000 people visit the forest each year, according to the state Division of Forest Resources.

Under its management, the state protects the forest's many habitats for rare and endangered species of plants and animals along with important examples of the region's geology and natural areas. Also, the Division of Forest Resources uses the property to demonstrate forest and wildlife management practices. The forest provides hunting and fishing opportunities through the N.C. Wildlife Commission's Game Lands program.

The 35-acre parcel donated this week is part of the land in the middle of the state forest that DuPont owned when it operated a facility there. In 1996 DuPont sold the facility to another manufacturer that did not want the forestland and the state acquired 7,600 acres of the land surrounding the plant, which includes Hooker Falls. DuPont State Forest was first opened to the public in 1997. In 2000 the state obtained an additional 2,200 acres including; Triple, High and Bridal Veil Falls.

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